THE LEGEND OF SUPREME

Image

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I AM...A GOD!

O-KAAAAY!--CAN YOU GIVE US SOME BACKGROUND ON HOW YOU CAME TO BE THIS...GOD?

IT WAS THE LATE THIRTIES AND HITLER'S FORCES WERE MARCHING THROUGH EUROPE...

IN PREPARATION FOR WAR, A TEAM OF U.S. GOVERNMENT SCIENTISTS UNDERTOOK A SECRET EXPERIMENT...

...FOR WHICH I WAS THE GUINEA PIG!

KLIK

PAUSE

NO WAY!

THE MORE I WATCH MY LIVE INTERVIEW WITH SUPREME, THE LESS I BELIEVE THAT COCK-AND-BULL "ORIGIN STORY" OF HIS!

IF HE WAS ANYONE ELSE, I'D HAVE RIPPED THROUGH THAT TISSUE OF LIES MONTHS AGO...

...SO THE QUESTION IS, WHAT AM I WAITING FOR?

ZAP!

KLIK

STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT

FORMER SITE OF GENETECH WORLD HEADQUARTERS

WHEN WILL HUMAN BEINGS LEARN NOT TO MEDDLE IN MATTERS THAT ARE BEYOND THEIR COMPREHENSION?

MUST I KILL EVERY LAST ONE OF THEM?

GRROAN...

PLEASE! DON'T--

SAVE YOUR BREATH! YOU'VE BEEN SPARED TO SERVE AS MY MESSENGER!

-GASP-

I WILL NO LONGER TOLERATE THIS KIND OF GENETIC RESEARCH!

THE CREATION OF ABOMINATIONS WILL CEASE IMMEDIATELY!

UNDERSTAND, HUMAN, THAT THIS IS A FINAL WARNING!

IF I CATCH ANY OF YOUR "PEERS" PERFORMING THIS KIND OF WORK AGAIN...

UHH... YOU'LL... BURN DOWN THEIR LABS... AND GRIND THEIR BONES TO DUST?

GO FORTH AND SPREAD THE GOOD WORD!

HOBOY!

RUN FOR YOUR LIFE BE BETTER

DESPITE THE BRAVE EFFORTS OF RESCUE CREWS, I'M STANDING HERE WITH THE LONE SURVIVOR OF SUPREME'S DEVASTATING ATTACK ON THE GENE-TECH BUILDING!

HOW DO YOU FEEL, SIR?

NEVER MIND THAT! I HAVE A MESSAGE TO DELIVER...FROM SUPREME!

HE SAYS HUMAN BEINGS MUST STOP MEDDLING IN THE AFFAIRS OF THE GODS!

PAUSE

THERE'S YOUR WARNING, MAXINE...

...STRAIGHT FROM THE HOLY TERROR HIMSELF!

YOU REALLY WANNA GO STICKIN' YER NOSE INTO *THAT* FAN?

IF SUPREME IS ON A RAMPAGE, THEN THE TRUTH ABOUT HIS PAST MAY BE THE ONLY WAY TO **STOP** HIM.

I'M *TELLING* YOU, SID-- HE WASN'T BEING 100% WITH ME IN THAT INTERVIEW!

SO I NOSE *AROUND* A LITTLE! WHAT'S HE GONNA DO-- *KILL* ME?

WELL, I GUESS... IT'S **YOUR** *FUNERAL!*

VERY FUNNY, SID! YOU SHOULD'VE BEEN A *COMEDIAN!*

WHO'S LAUGHING?

1944--SOMEWHERE IN FRANCE

IF YOU FLIMSY, FLESH-AND-BLOOD NAZIS ARE THE *MASTER RACE*-- THEN WHAT AM *I*?

SOMETHING *UNDREAMT* OF IN YOUR PHILOSOPHY, EH, HORATIO?

HA HA HA

HA HA

HA

GLEEEK!

YOU ALMOST MAKE IT SOUND AS IF HE *ENJOYED* THE WAR!

ALMOST, *HELL!* HE *RELISHED* IT! *REVELED* IN THE BLOOD!

DID THE ARMY *CONDONE* SUCH BEHAVIOR?

I WAS HIS "CONTROL"... HIS *COMMANDING OFFICER!* IT WAS MY JOB TO SEE THAT HE *KEPT ON KILLING!*

BUT WHEN I SAW THE...THE UTTER *BRUTALITY*... I TRIED TO *STOP* HIM!

HE COULD'VE *ENDED* THE WAR, YOU KNOW.

I TRIED TO STOP HIM BECAUSE I FINALLY REALIZED, HE WAS DELIBERATELY *PROLONGING* IT!

SAID IT WAS ALL PART OF THE NATURAL *WEEDING-OUT* PROCESS...THE *EVOLUTION* OF MAN!

YOU SPOKE OF *ATROCITIES* ...OF *WAR CRIMES*...

DAMN STRAIGHT! HEY! IS THERE A *STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS* ON THAT STUFF?

I...REALLY DON'T *KNOW*...

OH, *FORGET* IT! HELL, I SAW TO THE COVER-UPS *MYSELF!* BUT I SURE WOULD *LOVE* TO SEE THAT BASTARD BROUGHT DOWN!

I DON'T *UNDERSTAND!* WASN'T HE CHOSEN FOR THE GENETIC EXPERIMENT BASED ON SOME SORT OF *SUPERIOR QUALIFICATIONS?*

HAW HAW HAW HAW -HACK- -ACK-

QUALIFICATIONS?! WHY, HE WAS NOTHING BUT A *CONVICT*--AND A *LIFER*, AT THAT! HE ONLY AGREED TO VOLUNTEER BECAUSE IT GOT HIM...

...OUT OF THE *JOINT!*

B-BUT I THOUGHT...

MISTER SIMON? TIME FOR YOUR *PHYSICAL THERAPY!*

PHYSICAL THERAPY-- THAT'S THEIR LITTLE EUPHEMISM FOR "*ENEMA*" AROUND HERE! CAN YOU IMAGINE IF WE'D *LOST* THE WAR?

YOU GO TALK TO *SOPHIE MILES*--

--SHE KNOWS MORE ABOUT THAT *SOB* THAN ANYONE *ALIVE!*

AND GIRLIE? YOU BE *CAREFUL!* WATCH *OUT* FOR YOURSELF!

BELIEVE ME, YOU DO *NOT* WANT TO GET THIS MONSTER ANGRY!

NO, HE WON'T KILL ME--HE'LL JUST RIP MY *ARMS* OFF!

LEAWAY REST HOME

THE HIMALAYAN WILDERNESS.

ON THE FORTIETH NIGHT OF THE FORTIETH DAY...

YES, I SEE HER.

IT'S THE REPORTER *MAXINE WINSLOW.* SHE'S BEEN INVESTIGATING MY BACKGROUND FOR MONTHS NOW.

YOU THINK MY INTERVIEW SHOULD HAVE *SATISFIED* HER?

SCRIPTURE SAYS: *MAN DOES NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE. BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT COMES FROM THE MOUTH OF GOD.*

AND STILL YOU TAUNT ME TO *STRIKE THE WOMAN OOWN* FOR HER IMPERTINENCE.

YET SCRIPTURE ALSO SAYS YOU MUST NOT PUT THE LORD YOUR GOD TO THE TEST!

KNOW THEN, THAT THOUGH YOU HAVE *TEMPTED* ME WITH ALL THE EMPIRES OF THE EARTH AND THEIR SPLENDOR

.THEY ARE AS *NOTHING* TO ONE WHOSE KINGDOM ENCOMPASSES THE VERY HEAVENS!

GET THEE *BEHIND* ME, SATAN!

1937--ST. LOUIS

BA
R

HEY, SHUT THE DOOR! THERE'S A DRAFT!

SO THIS POLACK PULLS A KNIFE ON ME AND I GO FOR MY GUN...

HAW HAW HAW

HEY, LOOKA HERE! F T AIN'T THE GOOD SAMARITAN HIMSELF!

'S'MATTER, CRANE? KNEE'S SORE FROM TOO MUCH GENUFLECTIN'?

YOU HAD TO *PUSH* IT, DIDN'T YOU? SHE'S ONLY FIFTEEN YEARS OLD!

YEAH BUT WASN'T SHE *RIPE*?! HAW!

SO DIDJA COME TO IMPOSE *PENANCE*, "FATHER" CRANE? OR WILL YA SIT DOWN LIKE A *REGULAR GUY* AND TIP BACK A FEW WITH SOME REAL MEN?

HAR! HAR!

NEITHER

BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM BLA

HOLY *#@%

SHRIEK!

GANGWAY!

VENGEANCE IS MINE..

POLICE!

DROP IT AND RAISE 'EM HIGH!

HUH?

OH, THIS S EMPTY, OFFIC--

P-KOW! P-KOW! P-KOW!

WHAT THE HELL D HE SAY?

SOME-THING ABOUT HIS LIFE BE'NG EMPTY, I THINK.

ETHAN *SURVIVED*, BUT HE WAS SENTENCED TO LIFE IN PRISON FOR DEFENDING MY HONOR.

tik tik tik tik

SO *YOU* WERE THAT FIFTEEN-YEAR-OLD GIRL, MISS MILES?

CALL ME *SOPHIE*, DEAR! YES, THAT WAS *ME*.

HE'S TOLD ME THAT STORY SO *MANY TIMES*.. DID I MENTION THAT HE STILL VISITS? EVEN TO THIS *DAY*!

OF COURSE, YOU *MUSTN'T* TELL HIM THAT I'VE TOLD YOU ANY OF THIS.

YOU KNOW WHAT JESUS SAID· REMEMBER LOT'S WIFE!

M-MAY I PLEASE USE YOUR BATH-ROOM, SOPHIE?

DOWN THE HALL, SECOND FROM THE *LEFT*, MY DEAR.

OH, GOD IT'S ALL COMING BACK!

SISTER MARY CHRISTOPHER AND HER DAMNED RULER!

KLATCH

LLKE 17.32: REMEMBER LOT'S WIFE!

AND GENESIS 19: GOD TOLD LOT AND HIS WIFE TO FLEE FOR THEIR LIVES AND WARNED THEM NOT TO STOP OR LOOK BACK!

THEN HE RAINED FIRE AND BRIMSTONE ONTO THE CORRUPT TOWNS OF SODOM AND GOMORRAH, COMPLETELY DESTROYING THEM!

UNABLE TO RESIST SUCH A SPECTACLE, LOT'S WIFE FORGOT THE LORD'S COMMAND! SHE LOOKED BACK...

.AND, THANKS TO HER CURIOSITY, WAS TRANSFORMED INTO A PILLAR OF SALT!

SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS

DEEP IN THE HEART OF A COVENANT CELL...

BECAUSE OF HIS CURRENT CRUSADE WE MUST NOW CONSIDER SUPREME **PRIORITY ONE!** IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE HE TURNS HIS ATTENTION TO **OUR** ORGANIZATION... IF HE HASN'T DONE SO **ALREADY!**

I RESPECTFULLY **DISAGREE.**

SUPREME HAS NEVER SHOWN ANY INTEREST IN COVENANT ACTIVITIES!

YOU OVERLOOK THE OBVIOUS!

SUPREME HAS DECLARED WAR ON ALL GENETIC RESEARCH, THEREBY THREATENING OUR COVER CORPORATIONS!

BUT WHAT ARE WE TO DO? OUR TECHS PROJECT AN 87.9% PROBABILITY OF FAILURE, SHOULD WE ATTEMPT TO NEUTRALIZE HIM

THE DIRECT ROUTE IS SUICIDAL! BETTER THAT A COVERT PLAN BE DEVELOPED TO DISCREDIT SUPREME!

OUR INFORMANTS REPORT THAT A TV NEWSWOMAN IS ALREADY DIGGING INTO HIS PAST PERHAPS SHE'LL TURN UP SOMETHING!

YESSS..

AND WITHOUT CREATING A TRAIL TO LEAD BACK TO US! SEE TO IT THAT HER INVESTIGATION IS DISCREETLY EXPEDITED!

AS YOU WISH.

NOOS

AND ETHAN WAS JUST ROTTING AWAY IN PRISON WHEN THOSE GOVERNMENT PEOPLE OFFERED HIM THE DEAL.

..SO WHAT CHOICE DID HE HAVE? BESIDES, IT WAS FOR THE WAR EFFORT-- HE WAS ALWAYS A GOD-AND-COUNTRY MAN, YOU KNOW!

OF COURSE, BY THE TIME THEY GOT DONE WITH HIM, HE WAS BARELY RECOGNIZ-ABLE!

BUT I STILL KNEW HIM BY HIS SHAME-- HE STILL BLAMED HIM-SELF FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO ME!

YOU SEE, HE'D OVERHEARD THOSE BOYS THE NIGHT BEFORE, SAY-ING WHAT THEY WERE GOING TO DO TO ME..

AND I GUESS HE WAS TOO FRIGHTENED TO TRY TO STOP THEM!

THE DAY AFTER, I THINK HE WAS FIRING THAT GUN AT HIMSELF AS MUCH AS AT THEM.

AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT HE USED TO SAY IN HIS SLEEP...

SOPHIE! DO YOU MEAN THAT THE TWO OF YOU--?

WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE I WAS A VIRGIN ANYMORE!

GOD ALMIGHTY!

BRRRING

UHH!

LO? OH, CHARLIE, WERE YOU ABLE TO-?

WAIT! WAIT! LET ME GET SOMETHING TO WRITE ON--

OKAY, SHOOT!

UH-HUH. ONLY ONE PERSON CONNECTED TO THE PROJECT IS STILL ALIVE?

THIS JUST KEEPS GETTING WEIRDER...

WHERE IS HE?

RIGHT, RIGHT

I KNOW HOW HOSPITALS ARE ABOUT GIVING OUT THAT KIND OF INFO!

JUST GIVE ME THE ADDRESS... AND THANKS, CHARLIE! YOU RESEARCH GUYS ARE . HUH?

OOO-KAY LET'S SEE WHO OWES ME A FAVOR!

TRUST ME, I'LL FIND A WAY TO SEE HIM! RIGHT. BYE--

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

RESORT

GENTLEMEN... IT WOULD SEEM WE HAVE A *PROBLEM!*

THIS TIME, SUPREME IS OBVIOUSLY SERIOUS ABOUT SHUTTING US ALL DOWN... *PERMANENTLY!*

AS AN *ENDANGERED SPECIES*, I THINK THE TIME HAS COME FOR US TO *ACT!*

VERY DROLL. BUT DID YOU CALL US HERE TO DISCUSS A *PLAN OF ACTION* OR TO DISPLAY WHAT YOU THINK PASSES FOR *WIT?*

TOUCHÉ! AND IN VIEW OF THOSE COMMENTS, I'M THROWING OPEN THIS DISCUSSION TO THE *FLOOR...*

SUGGESTIONS, ANYONE?

ARENT THERE ANY DAMNED *HEROES* WE CAN TOSS AT THIS GUY?

SOME OF US EVEN HAVE SQUADS OF OUR *OWN!* I SAY WE *USE* THEM!

DO YOU REALLY WANT TO TURN THIS INTO A *NATIONWIDE BLOODBATH?*

THE WHOLE IDEA IS TO KEEP PUBLIC OPINION ON *OUR* SIDE!

IF WE SEND A GENETICALLY-ENGINEERED *ARMY* UP AGAINST SUPREME, EVERY BIT OF *DAMAGE* THAT RESULTS WILL STRENGTHEN HIS POSITION!

HE'S *RIGHT!* A BATTLE ROYALE COULD MAKE OUR HEROES LOOK AS DANGEROUS AS SUPREME'S BEEN *CLAIMING!*

BREEP BREEP

EXCUSE ME

YES?

WHO?

ALL RIGHT. PUT HER *THROUGH...*

GENTLEMEN... I DO BELIEVE THAT FATE HAS DELIVERED US A *PAWN!*

1939--WASHINGTON, D.C.

WITHIN A SECRET GOVERNMENT LABORATORY BENEATH THE POTOMAC...

THIS IS ETHAN CRANE OUR NEW SUBJECT

HELLO, ETHAN I'M DR WELLS I'LL BE SUPERVISING THE BATTERY OF TESTS YOU'LL UNDERGO OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

GEE I CAN'T WAIT!

I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN TOLD ABOUT THE RISKS, BUT I LIKE TO MAKE CERTAIN EACH SUBJECT FULLY UNDERSTANDS--

--THAT WE'RE YOUR WHITE RATS, DOC? HECK, WHY NOT?

AFTER ALL, WE'RE KEPT IN CAGES, TOO!

HE'S BEEN *BRIEFED*, DOCTOR! LET'S GET *ON* WITH IT, SHALL WE?

-CHUCKLE- LUCKY NUMBER SEVEN, *RIGHT*, DOC?

I HOPE SO, FOR *YOUR* SAKE, ETHAN

AND FOR THE SAKE OF THE *FREE* WORLD!

KRAK

WELL, DOCTOR?

AURR... *URRRR* GH!

PATIENCE, GENERAL! THESE THINGS TAKE-

-SIGH- YES, YES, AND THEN HE BEGAN TO *MUTATE* UNTIL HE BECAME THIS *ULTIMATE SUPERHUMAN!*

I KNOW THIS PART!

BUT..GASP. YOU ARE *MISTAKEN*... YOUNG LADY! CRANE WAS THE .. COFF! COFF! ...*SEVENTH!*

YEAH, YEAH. *LUCKY* SEVEN I GOT THAT FROM *SOPHIE MILES!* FRANKLY, I WAS HOPING FOR *MORE BACKGROUND* FROM--

LISTEN . TO ME!

YOU DON'T. *UNDERSTAND!* CRANE... WASN'T LUCKY!

DON'T YOU.. *SEE?* HE WAS.. GASP .. THE *SEVENTH!*

THE SEVENTH . -HAWWK- TO *DIE!*

WHAAA-AT?

AND THEN CAME .. THE *HORRIBLE* PART!

TO BE CONTINUED.

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JOHNSON PANOSIAN!

-KON-

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1939--WASHINGTON, D.C.

WITHIN A SECRET GOVERNMENT LABORATORY BENEATH THE POTOMAC...

I'M SORRY, GENERAL, BUT THE TEST SUBJECT IS *DEAD.*

ETHAN CRANE WASN'T ANY LUCKIER THAN THE SIX INMATES WHO *PRECEDED* HIM... AND NOW WE'RE *FRESH OUT OF* CONVICTED *KILLERS!*

I'VE ALREADY PUT IN A REQUISITION TO SING SING, DOCTOR WELLS. IN THE MEANTIME, YOU AND YOUR ASSISTANT HAVE AN *AUTOPSY* TO CONDUCT...

THIS SHOULD BE INTERESTING... CRANE LASTED *FAR LONGER* THAN ANY OF THE OTHERS!

PERHAPS AN *EXAMINATION* OF HIS CELL STRUCTURE WILL PROVIDE CLUES AS TO THE REASON WHY..

THREE DAYS IS A RECORD! DO YOU THINK WE'LL FIND *MUTATION*?

I DOUBT IT.

HE WAS PROBABLY JUST ONE *TOUGH* S.O.B

HIS FATHER WAS THE LAST OF THE BIG-TIME *BIBLE-THUMPERS*, YOU KNOW.

SPEAKING OF THE GOOD BOOK, DO YOU THINK MAYBE IT'S TIME WE EXAMINED THE *ETHICAL BASIS* OF THESE EXPERI-MENTS?

THIS IS A *MILITARY* OPERATION, MY FRIEND... ETHICS DON'T ENTER *INTO* IT!

BUT IF YOU WANT TO INFORM THE GENERAL YOU'VE DECIDED TO PUT GOD BEFORE COUNTRY...

...THEN I'LL BE HAPPY TO TESTIFY AT YOUR *COURT-MARTIAL!*

WH-WHAT ABOUT THE *AUTOPSY*?

IT'S LATE AND I'M TIRED.

PUT HIM ON ICE--WE'LL DEAL WITH IT *TOMORROW.*

THREE LONG DAYS.

WELL, YOU'RE IN THE *LORD'S* HANDS NOW...

SQUEAK

SQUEAK

SQUEAK

AND THAT WAS THE LAST I SAW OF ETHAN CRANE --COFF! COFF!-- -:HAWWWK:--

KLIK

THE POOR LAB ASSISTANT'S GOT NO REASON TO LIE TO ME--HE'S DYING FROM EXPOSURE TO THE SAME CHEMICALS AND RADIATION THEY SHOT INTO THOSE TEST SUBJECTS!

YOU CAN'T SCARE HIM ANYMORE!

TIME

Supreme Ultimatum

BUT YOU SURE ARE DOING A NUMBER ON THOSE OF US WITH A FEW GOOD YEARS LEFT.

NUTS, I JUST THOUGHT OF ANOTHER ONE!

REASONS TO PROCEED

1. TRUTH
2. JUSTICE
3. AMERICAN WAY
4. ROOTBEER FLOATS

REASONS TO BACK OFF

1. HAVE ARACHY
2. HELL CONFUSE ME
3. HELL KILL ME
4. FIND OUTSIDE THAN CRAZY?
5. DO ONE WILL BELIEVE STORY ANYWAY & MAY DESTROY THE WORLD REGARDLESS.

AND NUMBER SEVEN: HE'LL DESTROY THE ENTIRE PLANET!

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU'VE GOT THE GOODS ON GOD?

JOLIET, ILLINOIS

SEVERAL HUNORED FEET ABOVE THE STATE PRISON COMPLEX...

THERE IS NEED FOR SHREWDNESS HERE: IF ANY-ONE IS CLEVER ENOUGH, HE MAY INTER-PRET THE NUMBER OF THE BEAST.

IT IS THE NUMBER OF A MAN..

...THE NUMBER 666!

BABYLON THE GREAT HAS FALLEN!

S-SUPREME!

WHAT THE HELL IS *HE* DOIN' HERE?

GEE, WHY DON'T YOU GO ASK HIM?

GET ON THE HORN-- *NOW!* WE'VE GOT US ONE *MOTHER* OF A SITUATION HERE!

HOW DO I GET TO DEATH ROW?

WELL, FIRST YOU GOTTA KILL SOMEONE...

CHEESE IT, SHECKEY, HE DON'T LOOK AMUSED!

UH..THAT IS... STRAIGHT AHEAD. Y'CAN'T MISS IT!

THANK YOU.

SUPREME! THAT'S RIGHT! NO, HOW THE HELL SHOULD I KNOW!?

DON'T PROVOKE HIM?! WHAT ARE YOU, SOME KIND OF WISE GUY?

KREESH!

XF

!

THIS IS PERKINS AT DEATH ROW! HE'S HERE... AND HE'S HEADING FOR THE PARA-NORMAL HOLDING CELLS!

I AM THE LIVING ONE!

I WAS DEAD AND NOW I AM TO LIVE FOR EVER AND EVER...

KRUNCH

BZZT

...AND I HOLD THE KEYS OF DEATH AND OF THE UNDER-WORLD!

THAT'S FROM THE BOOK OF REVELATION!

IT'S SUPREME! HE'S COME TO FREE US POOR SINNERS, JUST LIKE I SAID HE WOULD!

FOR THE LAST TIME, GORGON... LAY OFF WITH THAT "BORN AGAIN" CRAP!

IT WAS ALSO WRITTEN IN REVELATION: HIS HEAD AND HIS HAIR WERE WHITE AS SNOW, HIS EYES LIKE A BURNING FLAME, AND HIS VOICE LIKE THE SOUND OF THE OCEAN.

OUT OF HIS MOUTH CAME A SHARP SWORD, DOUBLE-EDGED...

...AND HIS FACE WAS LIKE THE SUN SHINING WITH ALL ITS FORCE!

UHH... MAYBE YOU WERE RIGHT, AFTER ALL, GORGO!

BUT TELL HIM THAT HIS EYES ARE SHINING *TOO* BRIGHT.. Y'KNOW, FOR OUR *MORTAL GAZE?*

ALL THOSE WHO WORSHIP THE BEAST... WILL BE MADE TO DRINK THE WINE OF GOD'S FURY WHICH IS READY, UNDILUTED...

...IN FIRE AND BRIM-STONE!

AIEE--
÷SKRRK÷

KABOOM

GOD ALMIGHTY! WHAT HAS HE DONE?!

AWOOGA AWOOGA

AND THE SMOKE OF THEIR TORTURE WILL GO UP FOR EVER AND EVER..

hALLELUJAh!

YOU TAUGHT ME MY SCRIPTURE WELL...

...FATHER!

YET FOR ALL YOUR TENT SHOW TALK OF *HELL-FIRE*...

...YOU MADE *PRECIOUS LITTLE DIFFERENCE* ON THAT DARKLING PLAIN KNOWN AS THE DUST BOWL!

AS A CHILD, I CARRIED YOUR BIBLES INTO AUDIENCES AND SOLD THEM TO *PARCHED FARMERS* AND THEIR *BRITTLE WIVES.*

TO THEM, HELLFIRE WAS VERY *REAL!*

BUT COME THE RAINS, THEY WOULD *PUT ASIDE* THE WORD OF GOD, CAST IT OFF WITH THEIR *ALMANACS AND DIVINING RODS.*

YOU D'ON'T SAVE A *SINGLE SOUL,* FATHER!

YOU WERE NOTHING BUT A CON MAN, A TWO-BIT *RAIN-MAKER!*

AND BEHOLD, I COME QUICKLY, BRINGING THE REWARD TO BE GIVEN TO EVERY MAN ACCORDING TO WHAT HE DESERVES!

BUT YOU DID TEACH ME MY *SCRIPTURE:*

YOU'RE KIDDING! SHE MEOWED LIKE A CAT?

JUST CALL ME THE LION TAMER OF LOVE!

OKAY, CLYDE BEATTY, LET'S GET LUCKY NUMBER SEVEN HERE DOWN TO THE CHOP SHOP.

YOU HEAR SOME-THING?

THUMP

THUMP

HE'S ALIVE!

MORG

DOCTOR WELLS! LUCKY NUMBER SEVEN HAS COME BACK TO LIIIIFE!

THERE MUST BE SOME MISTAKE! THIS INDIVIDUAL IS DEFINITELY ALIVE...

...BUT IT'S NOT ETHAN CRANE!

DR. WELLS PROJECT SUPERVISOR

SO WHO IS THIS GUY... AND WHERE DID CRANE'S BODY GO?

I NEVER SAID IT WASN'T CRANE'S BODY... I JUST SAID IT WASN'T CRANE!

WHA-AAT?

ARE YOU SUGGESTING SOME SORT OF LAZARUS SCENARIO? DEAD TISSUE REGENERATING ITSELF--?

AND EVOLVING IN THE PROCESS!

IT'S MY GUESS THAT HE'LL BE A LOT HARDER TO KILL THIS TIME!

BUT --WHY WOULD YOU WANT TO DO THAT ?!?

TO PROVE THAT EVOLUTION HAS TAKEN PLACE, OF COURSE!

AND TO SEE IF HE'LL REGENERATE AGAIN!

DOCTOR WELLS, HAS IT OCCURRED TO YOU THAT WE COULD BE TAMPERING WITH FORCES BEYOND OUR COMPREHENSION?

THIS NEW GUY DOESN'T EVEN HAVE CRANE'S FINGER-PRINTS!

WHAT IF IT ISN'T EVO-LUTION?

WHAT IF IT'S...

...REINCAR-NATION?

WHAT IF WE END UP KILLING THE SAME SOUL OVER AND OVER AGAIN?

I HOPE THAT WE DO!

THE HINDUS BELIEVE THAT REINCARNATED SOULS EVENTUALLY BECOME ONE WITH GOD...

...AND ISN'T THE EXPRESS PURPOSE OF THIS PROJECT TO CREATE A SUPREME BEING?

ONE WEEK LATER...

BOY, TALK ABOUT THE GRAVEYARD SHIFT!

PERSONALLY, I THINK WELLS HAS A SCREW LOOSE!

IF THIS STIFF BOUNCES BACK FROM A SOLID WEEK OF UNGODLY TORTURE, IT'LL BE NOTHING SHORT OF A--

THUMP

--MIRACLE?

THUMP-THUMP

HOBOY--HERE WE GO AGAIN!

♫ THIS IS REALLY CREEE-PY. ♫

YAH!

G-GET OFFA ME!

CODE BLUE!

HE'S BACK--NEW AND IMPROVED!

FLUTCH!

THIS WENT ON FOR MONTHS! AND EVERY TIME HE CAME BACK, HE WAS STRONGER...

...HARDER TO KILL!

NEAR THE END, WE WERE PUMPING ENOUGH ELECTRICITY, CHEMICALS, AND RADIATION INTO HIM TO CONTAMINATE A CONTINENT!

FORTUNATELY, HE WAS BARELY CONSCIOUS FOR MOST OF IT. JUST MUTTERED EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE...

...PASSAGES FROM SCRIPTURE, MOSTLY.

THAT MADE ME FEEL PLENTY GUILTY, I CAN TELL YOU!

COURSE I'M PAYING FOR IT NOW-- WITH MY LIFE!

"THIS WENT ON FOR MONTHS. EVERY TIME HE CAME BACK, HE STRONGER... HARDER TO KI NEAR THE END, WE WERE PUMP ENOUGH ELECTRICITY, CHEMICA AND RADIATION INTO HIM TO C TAMINATE A CONTINENT. FOR NATELY, HE WAS BARELY CONSCI FOR MOST OF IT. JUST MUTTE EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE, PASSA FRO

I'M THE LAST ONE. WE ALL DIED FROM WHAT WE DID TO HIM!

I WAS SO RELIEVED THE DAY HE DISAPPEARED!

ZZZZZ

THE NIGHT SECURITY GUARD FELL ASLEEP ON THE JOB... IT HAPPENS, I GUESS.

AFTERWARDS... ...I GOT TO THINKING ABOUT THE LAST THING I HEARD THE SUBJECT SAY

IT WAS JUST TWO WORDS IN LATIN...ECCE HOMO!

I LOOKED IT UP... IT REFERS TO CHRIST ON THE CROSS!

ECCE HOMO...

...BEHOLD THE MAN!

ZZZZZ

WASHINGTON, D.C

THE SENATOR WILL SEE YOU NOW...

HENRY! HOW GOOD OF YOU TO COME!

OF COURSE BUT WHY THE URGENCY?

OH, COME, NOW... SURELY YOU'VE HEARD?

DRINK?

AH. THE PRISON.

NO, THANKS.

THE PRISON. SEEMS OUR BOY HAS DECIDED IT'S OPEN SEASON ON ANY PARA-NORMAL HE RUNS ACROSS!

THEN SHOULDN'T WE CONTACT THE OTHERS? THIS INVOLVES THEM JUST AS MUCH AS...

NO! I DON'T WANT THEM BROUGHT INTO THIS!

THE LESS THEY KNOW, THE BETTER!

WAIT A MINUTE-- WHY SHOULD I DO THEIR DIRTY WORK?

BECAUSE, HENRY-- YOU HAVE THE BIGGEST BROOM!

WHAT DO YOU *MEAN* BY THAT?

WELL, IT'S JUST THAT I *HEAR* THINGS ABOUT YOU, HENRY!

WHAT THINGS?

I HEAR THAT YOU'VE GOT A LITTLE *SECRET WEAPON* STORED AWAY...FOR JUST SUCH AN OCCASION AS *THIS!*

SUPREME DEMOLISHED ONE OF *MY* FACILITIES, TOO!

IF I HAD A WEAPON THAT WOULD STOP HIM, DON'T YOU THINK *I'D USE* IT?

NOT IF YOU'RE WAITING FOR SUPREME TO ELIMINATE YOUR *COMPETITION.*

HUH?

I WAS ON THE COMMITTEE THAT ORDERED SUPREME TO SUBMIT TO AN *EXTENSIVE PHYSICAL EXAM* TWELVE MONTHS AGO.

YOUR OUTFIT PERFORMED THAT EXAM!

TISSUE SAMPLES WERE TAKEN, WERE THEY NOT?

AND *X-RAYS* AND M.R.I.'S AND CAT-SCANS?

Y-YES, BUT--

LOOK, SENATOR... WE ONLY DID WHAT *ANY OTHER* GENETICS LAB WOULD'VE DONE UNDER SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES.

YOU KNOW...

...FOR THE *ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE!*

-*SIGH*- SAVE THE PATHETIC SONG-AND-DANCE FOR THE *GREAT UNWASHED,* HENRY...

...AND JUST TELL ME WHERE YOU'VE STASHED THE *CLONE OF SUPREME!*

DUBUQUE, IOWA

MAGNIFICENT!

HARDLY! ALL THAT WE'VE GOT HERE IS THE PROVERBIAL BULL BY THE HORNS.

YOU'RE LOOKING AT THE FIRST PERFECT CLONE, SENATOR--WITH MEMORIES INTACT!

THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! MEMORY ISN'T GENETIC!

TELL THAT TO HIM!

NEWLY-FORMED CLONES AREN'T SUPPOSED TO BE ABLE TO DREAM, MUCH LESS TALK IN THEIR SLEEP..

. BUT HE'S BEEN QUOTING SCRIPTURE!

JUDGING FROM THE OTHER THINGS HE'S BABBLED, HE HAS ALL OF THE MEMORIES OF THE MAN WE CLONED ONE YEAR AGO!

FASCI-NATING! SUCH CELLULAR MEMORY..

..GOES A LONG WAY TOWARD EXPLAINING HIS ABILITY TO ADAPT!

AND DESTROYS HIS EFFECTIVENESS AS YOUR SECRET WEAPON!

HENRY, YOU JUST HAVEN'T A CLUE.

IT'S YOU WHO DOESN'T UNDERSTAND- WE'VE GOT NO CONTROL OVER THIS CLONE! ZILCH!

ONCE WE RELEASE HIM FROM STASIS, HE'LL BELIEVE THAT HE IS SUPREME!

YES- IT COULDN'T BE MORE PERFECT!

DO IT!

HUH?!

ARE YOU NUTS?!?

DON'T YOU SEE? THEY'LL WIPE EACH OTHER OUT!

AND HALF OF EARTH WHILE THEY'RE AT IT!

I DON'T THINK SO! REMEMBER... SUPREME BELIEVES HE'S "SAVING" THE PLANET WITH THIS CRUSADE OF HIS!

YOU'RE AS CRAZY AS HE IS!

AND I'M ALSO CALLING THE SHOTS HERE! SO BE A GOOD BOY AND ROUSE OUR SLEEPING GIANT, HENRY..

...AND RELAX-- I'LL DO ALL THE TALKING!

MAGNIFICENT!

I'M STANDING HERE WITH THE LONE SURVIVOR OF SUPREME'S DEVASTATING ATTACK ON THE GENETECH BUILDING

SUPREME..SAID THAT HUMAN BEINGS MUST STOP MEDDLING IN THE AFFAIRS OF THE GODS!

CALLING THEM "ABOMINATIONS", SUPREME CASUALLY MASSACRED THE PARA-NORMALS...

...HERE ON DEATH ROW EARLIER TODAY.

THIS IS TRUE?

AFRAID SO.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT IMPOSTER *DID* TO YOU, BUT IT TOOK US DAMN NEAR A YEAR TO BRING YOU AROUND!

OH, AND DID I MENTION THAT HE'S BEEN *BRANDING* PEOPLE? WITH THE NUMBER 666?

THOSE SO MARKED SHOULD HAVE HEEDED THE WORDS OF MATTHEW 7:15:

BEWARE OF FALSE PROPHETS WHICH COME TO YOU IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING...

...BUT INWARDLY THEY ARE.

..RAVENING WOLVES!

FOR ALL THOSE WHO WORSHIP THE BEAST..OR HAVE HAD THEMSELVES BRANDED ON THE HAND OR FOREHEAD..

..WILL BE TORTURED IN THE PRESENCE OF THE HOLY ANGELS!

4HOK

DID YOU *HEAR* THAT? HE'S *WORSE* THAN THE OTHER ONE!

ALL PART OF THE PLAN, HENRY..

..IT TAKES A CAT TO KILL A *RAT!*

BUT WHO'S GOING TO KILL THE *CAT* WHEN IT COMES AFTER *US?*

GOD, AND WHAT IF THEY *JOIN FORCES?* WE..MAY HAVE DOOMED THE *ENTIRE PLANET!*

OH, GET A *GRIP,* HENRY!

AND STOP THINKING IN TERMS OF *TWO* OF THEM!

THINK *NONE!*

GATL
INC

MEANWHILE..

!

CAMELOT

NOOO!

PLEASE ...OH, PLEASE!

jiggle

MMPH!

AND EVE ATE OF THE APPLE...

...AND THE SCALES FELL FROM HER EYES!

POW!

H-HUH!

GOD! OH, GOD! THIS STORY'S GOING TO BE THE DEATH OF ME!

-BBBBRRRR:-

SPLASH!

NOW LET'S SEE... WHERE DID I.

GASP

MS. WINSLOW— TO USE YOUR OWN PROFANE VERNACULAR, THIS IS WHERE THE BODIES ARE BURIED.

HE WAS *HERE.*

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ETHAN CRANE

On the First Day I awoke as from the Dead and found myself in a Tomb of Stone...the year was 1939 and I was born again hard. The

To be continued...

THE LEGEND OF SUPREME

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FOR THOSE JUST TUNING IN, I'M STANDING IN THE RUBBLE OF WHAT USED TO BE A QUIET RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBOR-HOOD!

AS YOU CAN SEE, THIS PEACEFUL PLACE HAS BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO SOMETHING VERY MUCH RESEMBLING A WAR ZONE!

BUT THIS WAR ISN'T FOUGHT BY ARMIES OR NATIONS THIS IS A WAR BETWEEN TWO ***SUPREME'S!***

AS MANY AS **FOUR HUNDRED FAMILIES** HAVE BEEN LEFT HOMELESS IN THE WAKE OF THIS TITANIC STRUGGLE/

I WISH YOU COULD FEEL THE **HEAT** OF THESE FLAMES/

BONNIE CHO IS BEHIND THE BARRI-CADES WITH SOME OF THE SURVIVORS

BONNIE?

YES, JIM, I'M STANDING HERE WITH A LOCAL RESIDENT. CAN YOU TELL US WHAT YOU **SAW**, SIR?

IT WAS LIKE A **BLUR**! AT FIRST I THOUGHT I WAS SEEIN' ONE GUY, SPINNING AROUND AND AROUND LIKE A **TOP**!

BUT WHEN THEY SLAMMED THROUGH THE HIGH RISE, IT SLOWED 'EM DOWN...AN' I COULD SEE THERE WERE **TWO**!

AND THEY **BOTH** LOOKED LIKE SUPREME?

YEAH--THEY WERE LIKE **TWINS**!

BACK TO **YOU**, JIM!

SUPREME VS. SUPREME! IF TRUE, IS **ANY-ONE** SAFE?

LINDA GREENHOUSE IS AT THE UNITED NATIONS, WHERE AN EMERGENCY SESSION OF THE **SECURITY COUNCIL** HAS JUST BEEN CONVENED...

LINDA?

THE DELEGATES HERE ARE PLENTY NERVOUS TONIGHT, JIM!

THE UNOFFICIAL WORD IS THAT THE NUCLEAR OPTION IS BEING DIS-CUSSED!

DAMN.

WHERE THE HELL IS MAXINE?

THE STUFF SHE'S WORKING ON COULD PUT US AHEAD OF THE OTHER NETWORKS.

THERE'S NO ANSWER AT HER APARTMENT AND SHE HASN'T BEEN SEEN THERE FOR DAYS!

GREAT! NOW I'VE GOTTA WORRY ABOUT HER...

...AND OUR RATINGS!

I WARNED HER SHE COULD GET BURNED INVESTIGATING A NUTBALL LIKE SUPREME!

"BUT HAVE YOU EVER TRIED STOPPING MAXINE WINSLOW FROM FOLLOWING UP ON A HOT LEAD?

"IT'S LIKE HANGIN' ONTO A TITAN MISSILE!"

SHWOOM

IMPOSTOR!

THE URAL MOUNTAINS, RUSSIA.

THOOOM

WHAT TRICK IS THIS? YOU MATCH ME BLOW-FOR-BLOW!

I AM MORE THAN YOUR MATCH, USURPER...

...AS YOU WILL SOON DISCOVER!

BAH! YOU ARE NOTHING MORE THAN A THORN IN MY FLESH, A MESSENGER OF SATAN SENT TO BUFFET ME!

BUT MY STRENGTH IS MADE PERFECT IN WEAKNESS!

HOW DARE YOU QUOTE SCRIPTURE TO ME!?!

KACHOOM

IN MY *OWN* WORDS, THEN...

KRK!

I CAST THEE *OUT!!*

BURKE

...YOU...ARE OF...YOUR FATHER...

...THE DEVIL!!

HE WAS A MURDERER FROM THE BEGINNING, AND ABODE NOT IN THE TRUTH..

...BECAUSE THERE IS NO TRUTH IN HIM!!

WHEN HE SPEAKETH A LIE, HE SPEAKETH OF HIS OWN...

..FOR HE IS A LIAR, AND THE FATHER OF IT!

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ETHAN CRANE ON THE FIRST DAY
I awoke as from the dead and found myself in a tomb of stone.

...the year was 1939 and I was born again hard.

The outside world was strange and new...

...and so was I.

At first. In my confusion. I knew not where to turn...

...but I was still my father s son.

GOOD LORD!

SIT YOURSELF *DOWN*, MY LAD

AND LET'S GET SOME *HOT FOOD* IN YOU!

CAN YOU TELL ME HOW YOU CAME TO THIS?

IT WAS *EVIL* MEN, FATHER ..

..AND THEY MAY COME LOOKING FOR ME!

SO

IT'S *SANCTUARY* YOU'RE SEEKING!

YOU CAN USE THIS ROOM FOR THE TIME BEING!

BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO EARN YOUR KEEP I CAN'T DO *EVERYTHING* AROUND HERE!

NO ..

BUT I CAN!

WHERE SHOULD I PUT THESE GROCERIES, FATHER BEAM?

!

CARE TO TAKE A BREAK AND LISTEN TO THE NEWS, SON?

JUST AS SOON AS I DRIVE IN THIS LAST NAIL!

FRANCE HAS FALLEN BEFORE THE MIGHT OF THE NAZI HORDES!

MARSHAL PETAIN ISSUED HIS SURRENDER TODAY IN A STATEMENT TO THE FRENCH PEOPLE

IT'S GOD'S **WILL**, ETHAN!

HE MOVES IN MYSTERIOUS WAYS!

THESE ARE TRULY THE TIMES THAT TRY MEN'S SOULS! WE YEARN TO FIGHT THE BATTLE AGAINST EVIL ON EVERY FRONT, BUT WE ***CAN'T***

NO

BUT I CAN!

DID YOU SAY SOME-THING TO ME?

ETHAN!

ETHAN CRANE

I DON'T HEAR ANY SWEE-PING!

ALL KIDDING ASIDE, ETHAN, I--

GASP!

WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

I'M MOVING, FATHER

IN MYSTERIOUS WAYS!

On the third day I rose ..

WHRRR-
WHRRR-
WHRRR-
FIRES CONTINUE TO RAGE OUT OF CONTROL DESPITE ALL EFFORTS TO CONTAIN THEM.
THE DEATH COUNT IS MOUNTING!
JET FIGHTERS HAVE BEEN SCRAMBLED BY THE PENTAGON AND THE U.N SECURITY COUNCIL HAS DECLARED...
...A STATE OF EMERGENCY!
A TENSE WORLD WAITS TO--
klik
YOU BASTARD

THIS JUST IN THE TWO SUPREMES HAVE APPARENTLY TAKEN THEIR BATTLE OFF-PLANET! THEY WERE SPOTTED LEAVING THE EXOSPHERE BY RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT--

SENATOR? MISTER STIMPLE IS STILL HOLDING ON LINE ONE!

THANKS, DIERDRE

WELL, HENRY, DID I CALL IT OR *WHAT*? YOUR CLONE HAS GOTTEN SUPREME OUT OF OUR HAIR--WITH *MINIMAL* PROPERTY DAMAGE AND LOSS OF LIFE!

WHO?

THE *REPORTER*? WHATEVER SHE'S MANAGED TO DIG UP IS *OLD NEWS* BY NOW! IT CAN'T POSSIBLY DAMAGE SUPREME ANY MORE THAN HE'S DAMAGED HIMSELF!

÷CHUCKLE÷ SORRY.. *THEM*-SELVES

OH, STOP IT! TRUST ME-- ONLY *ONE* WILL COME BACK, TOPS!

I DON'T THINK IT *MATTERS* WHICH!

HE'S A MENACE! I ALWAYS SAID SO! HE SHOULD BE DESTROYED--

A NOD'S AS GOOD AS A WINK TO A *BLIND* HORSE, EH?

--FALL!
WHY WON'T YOU--

AND YOUR MOVE-MENTS--TOO FAMILIAR! TOO MUCH LIKE MY OWN!

YOU EVEN DRAGGED US INTO SPACE IN ORDER TO AVOID FURTHER DAMAGE TO EARTH AND ITS INHAB-ITANTS!

AND NOW--

--UNLESS I MISS MY GUESS--

--YOU WILL HURL ME DIRECTLY INTO THE PATH--

--OF THAT APPROACHING METEOR SHOWER!

JUST AS I WOULD HAVE DONE TO YOU!

IT'S TRUE.. I'M FIGHTING MYSELF!

BUT IS IT MY PAST SELF, MY FUTURE SELF, OR SOME TYPE OF CLONE?

IF IT IS ONE OF THE FIRST TWO, I DARE NOT DESTROY IT WITHOUT RISKING MY OWN EXISTENCE!

BUT IF IT IS A CLONE--

--AND A QUICK MICROSCOPIC SCAN OF HIS DNA REVEALS THAT IT IS--

--THEN I CAN KILL IT WITH IMPUNITY!

WHAT'S MORE, MY ANALYSIS OF THIS CREATURE'S GENETIC CODE HAS UNCOVERED HIS ACHILLES HEEL!

UNLESS I MISS MY GUESS, HE IS A PRODUCT OF THE TISSUE SAMPLES I GAVE TO AN EARTH LABORATORY SOME TWELVE MONTHS AGO!

AND SINCE WHATEVER DOESN'T KILL ME MAKES ME STRONGER...

...THEN I MUST BE ONE SOLID YEAR TOUGHER THAN THIS KNOCKOFF!

AND I HAVE A YEAR'S WORTH MEMORIES OF ALL THE HARD LESSONS I'VE LEARNED!

IT'S TOO BAD THERE'S NO SOUND IN AIRLESS SPACE.

IT WOULD BE INTERESTING TO TALK TO HIM, SEE HOW MY ATTITUDE HAS CHANGED IN THE INTERVENING MONTHS

AND IF I HAD BEEN BLINDED MYSELF..

..WOULD I HAVE SCREAMED?

WOULD I HAVE BEEN WILLING TO BLIND AN OPPONENT THEN, OR HAVE I GROWN MORE RUTHLESS WITH TIME?

MEMORY S SO SUBJECTIVE EVEN MY *OWN!*

WE TEND TO FORGET WHAT WAS PA NFUL

SHAMEFUL

AND RISE ABOVE T/

AM I A MONSTER OR A *GOD?*

OR ARE THE TWO THINGS ONE AND THE *SAME?*

S THIS AN ACT OF *MURDER*

OR *MERCY?*

WHEN FATHER BEAM WAS ALIVE, SUCH QUESTIONS WERE PREGNANT WITH MEANING!

BUT ANY GOD WHO WOULD HAVE ALLOWED THAT GOOD MAN TO DIE SUCH A SENSELESS AND VIOLENT DEATH.

IS AS ARBITRARY AND DETACHED AS I COULD EVER HOPE TO BE!

AND YET, I STILL *THINK* OF MY OLD MENTOR

SO I AM APPARENTLY *NOT* AS DETATCHED

AS I WOULD LIKE TO *BELIEVE!*

RODUCER

HANG ON! I'LL GRAB MY COAT AND WE'LL GO **BREAK IN** TO MAXINE'S APART-MENT

HUH?!

WHAT TH' HELL ARE YOU DOIN' SITTING HERE IN THE **DARK?**

MY STORY IS ON YOUR DESK ALL OF IT. LAST PART'S THE KICKER

GREAT!

I'LL START PULLING THE FILE FOOTAGE WHILE YOU HEAD OVER TO MAKE-UP

UH-UH I'M NOT GOING ON THE **AIR** WITH THIS!

FIRE ME IF YOU WANT--BUT IF I HAVE TO READ THAT OUT LOUD, I'LL **CHOKE** TO DEATH!

IT'S OKAY. YOU DO WHATEVER YOU **GOTTA** DO

WELL, RIGHT NOW I HAVE TO GO HOME AND TAKE A SHOWER.. FOR A **WEEK** OR SO!

DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN HE FIRST **SHOWED UPP** WHAT HE SAID? "I AM **SUPREME!**"

I DON'T THINK HE WAS TELLING US HIS **NAME,** SID.

I THINK HE WAS TRYING TO CONVINCE **HIMSELF.**

:GULP:

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YOU DON'T LOOK **SURPRISED.**

WATCH YOUR **TONGUE** MY GOSPEL-- IT WASN'T TO YOUR LIKING!

I'M NOT **ANYTHING** RIGHT NOW, THANKS TO YOU AND BY THE WAY, YOU LOOK LIKE **HELL**

I MAY BE A LAPSED CATHOLIC, BUT I REMEMBER MY COMMANDMENTS: THOU SHALT HAVE NO OTHER GODS BEFORE ME

GO ON

THOU SHALT NOT KILL...

ARE YOU QUESTIONING ME?

HEY, YOU'RE GOD! THAT MAKES ME-- WHAT?--YOUR CREATION? SO WHY DO YOU EVEN GIVE A TINKER'S DAMN WHAT I--

YOU WERE CHOSEN TO CARRY MY MESSAGE, BUT I CAN JUST AS EASILY--

HAVE A CARE!

WHAT? KILL ME? WELL, GO AHEAD!

I SEE NOW THAT I HAVE MISJUDGED YOU! I THOUGHT YOU TO BE A TRUTH-SEEKER..

IF YOU CAN'T CONTROL YOUR TONGUE...

YOU WANT TRUTH? JESUS, TAKE A HARD LOOK AT YOURSELF!

OKAY, OKAY I'M SORRY.

BUT AS A REPORTER, I CAN'T HELP BEING CURIOUS ABOUT ONE THING.

WHEN DID I GO FROM BEING AN ENEMY... TO A... A

DISCIPLE?

SPLASSH

LISTEN, I'LL ADMIT THAT YOU'VE RE-AWAKENED A CERTAIN.

..SPIRITH-ALITY IN ME

.. AND MAYBE I'M NOT SO LAPSED AFTER ALL...

.. BUT IF YOU THINK THAT SCARING ME BACK TO MY FAITH QUALIFIES YOU FOR GOD HOOD, THEN YOU'RE EVEN CRAZIER THAN I THOUGHT!

I'M GOING TO START ATTENO-ING CHURCH AGAIN REGULARLY...

...AND I'LL PRAY FOR YOUR LOST SOUL!

AND WILL YOU SEE THAT MY WORD GETS OUT?

GIGGLE-GIGGLE-HEH HEH.. HA HA HA!

SURE! WHY THE HELL NOT? =CHORTLE=

GOOD. MY TIME HAS COME TO LEAVE THIS WORLD AGAIN.

HAVE A NICE TRIP...AND WRITE WHEN YOU FIND WORK! HAHAHAHAHAHA

S-SORRY--HA-- HUNNKE SORRY-- REALLY!

WAIT! ONE LAST QUESTION BEFORE YOU GO--

WHEN YOU LEFT EARTH THE FIRST TIME...

WHY?

WHAT REALLY DROVE YOU AWAY?

DO YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF **ABOVE** THE WORD OF GOD, ETHAN? DO YOU EVEN **REMEMBER** IT?

FATHER, I...

7 DEAD IN SUPREME SLUGFEST

THOU SHALT NOT KILL! THOU SHALT NOT KILL!!

PLEASE, LET ME EX-

THOU SHALT
THOU SHALT

SLAP

SHUT UP!

SHUT UP!

F-FATHER--?

FATHER BEAM?

NOOO

WELL?

THE INTERVIEW IS OVER!

AND YOU CAN SAVE YOUR PRAYERS--

--FOR SOMEONE WHO DESERVES THEM!

AND WHO WOULD THAT BE?

"There is no fundamental, but that every supreme power be arbitrary."
-George Savile, Marquis of Halifax
1633-1695

Fin